



MCDO MISSION STATEMENT

The Marion Community Development Organization (MCDO) is an organization under the laws of the State of Ohio, not-for-profit. The mission of the organization shall be to act as a coordinating body to assist local organizations meet the changing needs of the Marion Community through planned development while maintaining its agricultural profile. The activities will be directed toward, but not limited to, development of infrastructure, housing, family care, education, small business, recreation, and agriculture.

President, Ted Bertke called the February meeting of The Marion Community Development Organization to order by reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. The meeting was held on Thursday, February 12th, 2026, at 7:00 a.m. at the Marion Township Building.

TREASURER REPORT:

Deb Otte presented the financial report. The report for the month ending January 31, 2026, is as follows:

Total Cash Balance: \$346,946

<i>Cash Summaries</i>	
Checking	\$290,127
CD's	\$22,434
Savings	\$34,385
Total Cash	\$346,946

<i>Organization Fund Summaries</i>	
Recreation Fund	\$35,293
General Fund – MCDO	\$32,469
Marion Soccer	\$11,549
Girls' Softball	\$12,600
ML FFA	\$24,560
ML FFA Pork Producers	\$24,621
Boys Baseball	\$48,953
Ag Ed Boosters	\$32,133
Ag Ed Scholarship	\$1,000
ML Bowling	\$668
Marion Industrial Park Association	\$27,732
Woods Chapel Maintenance Fund	\$798
Multi-Use Path	\$65,350
Fundamental League	\$2,219
Girls Youth Basketball	\$2,933
Boys Youth Basketball	\$4,400
Carthage Park	\$19,667
Total Organization Funds	\$346,946

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

1. RECREATION COMMITTEE: *Committee Chairperson – Doug Bender*

The weekly winners of the 301 Club are as follows:

January 26: Jeff & Dani Otte

February 2: Roger & Lynn Ungruhn

February 9: Paul & Mary Nagel

2. MEMBERSHIP AND PROMOTION COMMITTEE: *Committee Chairperson –Allison Moeller*

To all the families and businesses who supported the Marion Community Development Organization in 2025 through your annual membership, thank you! We appreciate your commitment to our community.

MCDO is the umbrella group that helps the facilitation of our community through fund management of various organizations. These include Marion Local FFA, Marion Township Greenway Bike Path, Chapel Hill Preschool, and many youth sports activities in conjunction with the 301 Club. This generates growth for infrastructure and business development, agricultural education for our students, agricultural solutions for farmers, and housing development.

Every membership is invested locally, for the benefit of all current and future residents and generations! The 2026 membership drive is underway, please see a link to the membership form on this email or on page 4. We would appreciate your support in 2026!

3. HOUSING: *Committee Chairperson – Bob Unrast*

The St. Francis housing development south of Chickasaw has four building lots available. The lots are between .381 and .711 acres starting at \$28,500 and include village water and sewage. Contact Tess Mescher for more information at 419-305-0106.

The Woodview Estates subdivision still has lots available for sale. For more information, please contact Jay Ruhenkamp at 937-295-4244.

Dan Jutte has a development underway off Jackson Street. Please contact him at 419-733-0053 for more information on the available lots.

Osgood has residential lots and a commercial lot for sale through Arling Real Estate. This development is on the west end of town off State Route 705 and Mendenhall Road to the north of OPPAC and Osgood Community Veterans Center. Please contact Brandon Arling at 567-644-4851 for details.

4. HEALTH, EDUCATION, & SAFETY: *Committee Chairperson – Lisa Buschur*

February is heart month! Mercer health offers two quick, painless ways to check your heart and vascular health. The Heart Score CT Scan is \$80 and Vascular Screening Package is \$50. No referral is needed, call (419) 678-5112 to schedule today.



5. AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT: *Committee Chairperson – Mark Hardesty*

FFA Week is coming up February 23rd - 28th. We will be having various events throughout the week, including the tractor drive-in, community breakfast, Ag Olympics and slushie shower event to raise money for a community cause or family. FFA members have started preparing for Career Development Events that will be held throughout February, March and April. These include Ag Sales, Agronomy, Floriculture, Dairy Evaluation, Dairy Handlers, Extemporaneous Speaking, General Livestock and the Greenhand Test. The Ag Sales team competed on Tuesday, February 3rd and placed 10th at the District 5 Contest. Member Alex Grieshop also competed in the subdistrict Extemporaneous Public Speaking contest held at Coldwater High School on February 9th. He spoke on the importance of potting media in horticulture but did not place in the top two in order to advance. We are proud of our communications contest competitors! The FFA banquet is March 17th at the Knights Hall, starting at 7:00 pm.

OTHER BUSINESS:

- There are lots available in the Maria Stein Industrial Park. If you are interested, please reach out to Gary Moeller at 419-305-4511
- If anyone is interested in joining the MCDO Board in any capacity, please contact Deb Otte at admin@marioncommunities.com.
- The MCDO will be holding a Community Address Luncheon on Sunday, March 8th at the Maria Stein American Legion. Doors open at 12:15 with lunch at 12:30. Senator Susan Manchester will be speaking. Tickets are \$10. Please Venmo or email admin@marioncommunities.com to reserve yours today!

VILLAGES, TOWNSHIP, PARKS, & SCHOOL REPORTS:

1. **Carthage Park Report** – To reserve the park please call Nancy Koesters at 419-925-5192.
2. **Chickasaw** – No new information to report.
3. **Chickasaw Park Board Report** – For information on renting the park shelters (both the VFW and Ball Diamond), contact AJ Homan at 419-733-1171.
4. **Osgood** – No new information to report.
5. **Osgood Park Board Report** – For information on renting the park shelters, call Nick Beasley at 937-621-7718.
6. **Marion Township** – No new information to report.
7. **Marion Township Park Board Report** – Please follow Marion Township Park on **Facebook (Marion Township Park)** and on **Twitter (@MarionTwpPark)**. You can also contact us through email: mariontwppk@gmail.com.
The Monthly Park Raffle Winners for February are as follows:

\$50 – PJ & Carla Thobe	\$30 – Ric & Gail Mueller
\$25 – Jeff & Jeanna Heitkamp	\$25 – Beck Everman
8. **Marion Local Schools** –Despite the bitter cold temperatures, the new building project has developed interior progress. Once the weather "warms up" a bit, there will be more activity on the roof, gym, and windows. The Five-Year Forecast was presented, and the next 3 fiscal years look positive; however, with the property tax reform, the final 2 years of the forecast are showing a shortage. There are 2 factors that certainly help Marion Local's state funding and those are 5-Star Rating and increasing enrollment. Jenny Dippold has announced her retirement date of November 12, 2026, and Marion Local will be looking for a High School Guidance Counselor to replace her. Marcia Moeller was hired as the High School Volleyball Head Coach. There are also other positions open and interested applicants can refer to the school's website if interested.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 am. The next MCDO meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 17th, 2026, at 7:30 a.m. in the Marion Township Building.

Submitted by: Ted Bertke, President

Board of Directors

Ted Bertke, President	419-852-1072
Deb Otte, Secretary	419-305-4014
Jean Bender, Treasurer	419-925-4254
Deb Otte, Coordinator	419-305-4014

Committee Chairpersons

Agricultural Development:	Mark Hardesty, DVM 419-925-4212
Business Retention & Dev.:	Jill Nagel 419-925-9101
Health, Safety & Education:	Lisa Buschur 419-305-0858
Housing:	Bob Unrast 419-305-4485
Infrastructure:	Nick Moeller 619-884-9958
Membership:	Allison Moeller 567-644-5207
Recreation:	Luke Bertke 419-953-6114

2026 MCDO Membership Form

2 Membership Form Options:

- Complete the online form at <http://marioncommunities.com>.
- Complete and mail the membership form below.

MCDO Membership Business \$60 / Family \$15			
Name:			
Address:			
City, State, Zip:			
Email:			
Phone:		Date:	

3 Payment Options:

- Please make checks payable to: Marion Community Development Organization
 - *Please send remittance to: MCDO - PO Box 65 - Maria Stein, OH 45860*
- Pay by Venmo - Username: @MarionCommunity-DevelopmentOrg
 - *(Please include "MCDO Membership" in Description)*
- Pay by Paypal: paypal.me/marioncommdeveloporg

Marion Community Develop...
@MarionCommunity-DevelopmentOrg



Marion Community Development Organization
Box 65
Maria Stein, OH 45860-0065